

Minutes of Meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on 2nd March 2022

Attendance:

Present: R. James (Chairman); P. Davis (PD); M. Clark (MC); G. Cupper (GC); S. Knowles (SK); C. Wier (CW); J. Bromley (JB)

In Attendance: Ward Councillor N. Shaw (NS); K. Phillips (Clerk). 3 members of the public + P. Wood (PDW) via Zoom, whom is therefore unable to vote. PCSO Sue Berrett joined at the latter part of the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from T. Hunt (TH)

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on: 23rd February 2022

Proposed MC, seconded GC. All in favour. Approved.

4. Matters arising from above minutes

- RJ thanked PDW for his involvement in providing the response to questions for the Spatial Options questionnaire.
- RJ stated that should parishioners need to voice a concern there is opportunity to attend these Parish Council meetings to do so. Alternatively, email or phone a Parish Councillor but please do not turn up at a Councillor or Clerk residence without an agreed appointment.

5. To receive report from Ward Councillor

The Ward Councillor had sent in a written report to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. There were no questions from Parish Councillors. The Ward Councillor report is as attached at Annex A.

6. To receive the Clerk's report

- Hedge trimming had been done on the playing fields and Church bank.
- Drainage problems by the village hall had been reported and determined to be a defect by BBLP. It was noted that this still hasn't been addressed.
- The response to the Spatial Options questionnaire have been submitted online.
- A new Restricted Byway has been registered onto the definitive map. This is known as WR26 Whitbourne.

7. Financial matters

- a) To approve accounts for payment.
Clerk Salary & HMRC PAYE Feb/Mar 22. Clerk Expenses Jan/Feb 22. Hedge/bank Trimming.
Proposed GC, seconded CW. All in favour. Approved. Details of expenditure are contained in a table at the end of these minutes.
- b) To approve bank reconciliation to 28th Feb 2022. Proposed SK, seconded PD. All in favour. Approved.
- c) To approve Income and Expenditure reconciliation to 28th Feb 2022. Proposed GC and seconded CW. All in favour. Approved.
- d) To review current 2021/2022 budget versus spend. No issues raised.

8. Planning

- a) & b) Planning Consultations - 214692 & 220560 - Little Wishmore, Whitbourne
It was proposed (SK) and seconded (CW) that this planning consultation be supported. All in favour. Decided.
- c) Planning Consultation - 220440 - 3 Ardley Meadows, Whitbourne
It was proposed (CW) and seconded (SK) to open the meeting to the public. All in favour. The Chairman then opened the meeting to the public. A local resident gave an opinion about this application and a similar previous application and the grounds for refusal by the Herefordshire Council case officer. It was also noted that there hadn't been a yellow notice posted at the property. The Chairman then closed the meeting. Parish Councillors agreed that the grounds for refusal for the previous application (namely policies SD1, LD1 and MT1) had not been addressed in this new application. It was proposed (GC) and seconded (SK) that this planning consultation not be supported. All in favour. Decided.

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9. S106 Projects

MC reported that PDW and himself have a scheduled meeting with Simon Hobbs (Herefordshire senior accident investigator) on the 7th March 2022. This would cover examining white lines and other safety issues within the village. Simon could also signpost the way to accessing grants to improve traffic safety. PDW suggested that the remaining S106 transport monies could be used to match fund any grant that may be available.

10. To review Clerk Delegation Authority Policy

It was proposed (MC) and seconded (CW) to keep the Clerk Delegation Policy in operation. All in favour. Decided.

11. To appoint grass cutting contractor.

It was proposed (GC) and seconded (CW) to reappoint the current grass cutting contractor. All in favour. Decided.

12. To receive report from NDP Steering Group

The group had postponed activities until March 2022. However, contributions had been made to the Spatial Options questionnaire. The group would also consider the Environmental Building Standards questionnaire.

13. To receive reports from the Village Hall, Playing Fields and Manorial Court

- **Village Hall.** The next meeting was scheduled for the 21st March 2022.
- **Playing Fields.** An additional piece of adult fitness equipment and swings were being considered. It was noted that the playing fields seemed to be utilised frequently.
- **Manorial Court.** SK reported that a Zoom meeting had been held on the 9th Feb 2022. The Chairman had reported receiving notification that there would be no speed reduction on the A44 across the common but increased enforcement would be used. Plans were in place to host events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

14. To decide approach to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

It was noted that for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations a tree was planted on the village green. It was also noted that a parishioner was organising a street party within the village. It was agreed to discuss this aspect at the next Parish Council meeting.

- a) To consider request for funding from the Manorial Court regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was proposed (MC) and seconded (SK) to open the meeting to the public. All in favour. The Chairman then opened the meeting to the public. The Chairman of the Manorial Court described the events being planned for the celebrations. These included stalls, games and potentially a bouncy castle. A beacon would be lit in the evening to co-ordinate with neighbouring beacons. A request was made for £250 to support these events. The Chairman then closed the meeting to the public. The Parish Council was very supportive of the events being scheduled. It was proposed (SK) and seconded (CW) that a grant of £250 be made to the Manorial Court. All in favour. Decided.

15. To decide approach to tree inspections within the Parish

It was noted that there was the possibility of ash die-back on some trees close to the playing fields. In addition a parishioner had noted a leaning tree opposite the village shop. It remains unclear which trees come under the care of the Parish Council. Most of the trees within the Parish are the responsibility of either Herefordshire Council Highways or adjacent landowners. The Clerk agreed to contact the Herefordshire Council Tree Officer and seek guidance.

16. To receive report regarding the Glebe/woodlands

PD reported that there had been no movement on the planned tree felling. However, progress had been made to schedule a meeting with the Diocese.

17. To report village issues regarding road maintenance, clearance etc.

- Blocked gully by village hall. This has already been declared a defect by BBLP and hadn't yet been resolved.
- C1066 at the bottom of Ardley Meadows was now breaking up again.

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- CW noted the forthcoming Talk Community meeting in the village hall on the 7th March. All parishioners are invited. It was hoped that this meeting would help to underpin community engagement that had previously been raised as a concern.
- Concern was raised about the overgrown nature of the patch of land by the playing fields (formerly used by the school). This still needed a group to tidy and maintain it.

18. Public participation

- PCSO Sue Berrett joined the meeting and gave a situation report with regard to the current policing levels within the area and matters arising locally within the parish. PCSO Berrett also encouraged Parish Councillors and the wider parish to sign up to the Neighbourhood Matters alert system. The agreed Whitbourne Community Charter was reviewed and was felt to be still appropriate for the parish. No ‘cold calling’ notices were handed out and will be available in the village shop. The Smart Water and ‘we don’t buy crime’ initiatives were also discussed.
- The parish ‘welcome packs’ were still being drafted and would soon be available. There would be the opportunity for the Parish Council to review the draft before being put into use. It was noted that a co-ordinator for Bringsty Common would be desirable to advise on household movements.

19. Items for future consideration

Queens’ Jubilee street part & patch of land by playing fields.

The meeting closed at 21:17.

Cheque No	Expenditure	Payment
300502	Clerk Salary Feb/Mar 22	714.73
300503	Clerk HMRC Feb Mar 22	178.60
300504	Clerk Expenses Jan/Feb 22	40.00
300505	A Roberts (Hedge/bank trimming)	70.00
Total		£1003.33

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Chairman – 2nd March 2022

ANNEX A
Ward Councillor Nigel Shaw’s report

Written Report for Whitbourne Parish Council meeting 2nd March 2022
I write this report with a heavy heart knowing that events in Ukraine put into perspective the hopes and plans for our town and county that we discuss and sometimes even argue about. Having visited Ukraine, and my wife still working to train the Ukrainian probation service (remotely), we both feel for the pain and anguish that many are now suffering. My wife remains in daily contact with some of her Ukrainian colleagues.

Whitbourne Specific:
In respect of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee I note plans for a street party in Whitbourne on the 4th June and plans for an event and the firing of a beacon on Bringsty Common on 2nd June.
Bringsty Common (see below) are planning a beacon- this will be in the Linton Parish part of the common. Prior to the lighting of the beacon at 9:45pm , there will be festivities held in the afternoon, probably on the football pitch, with games and stalls; tug of war , 3 legged race , etc.
Welcome resurfacing of Tedney road , planned 16/3 – 22/3 . A 7 day closure promises some reasonable scope for the works, but I have not seen any details.

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The Live license appeal hearing scheduled for 10th May in Hereford.

Elsewhere in the Ward:

New signage at the Upper Sapey (High Cross) crossroads are in place. A facility for a vehicle activated sign has been created and this should be installed in the next financial year.

Following confirmation from HC that there is no 30mph limit in Upper Sapey village, the parish council has put forward the request for one which I was pleased to support. A reservoir upstream of Upper Sapey has been the focus of attention by the environment agency who have used high capacity pumps to reduce the water level. Letters were delivered to 30 households by ea officials and the police to advise them of the risk, which I am now advised has been mitigated.

At a full council meeting (the budget meeting) on 11th February I tabled several amendments on behalf of the conservative group which would have seen council tax frozen for this year, or contained to the 1% social care precept. All were defeated. The coalition voting as a group against the proposal and also getting support from 3 of the liberal group.

The recent storms saw significant numbers of felled trees and branches, BBLP attending several incidents in the ward. There remains work to be done in clearing up after the storms, including clearing footpaths and pavements of fallen branches.

I am currently working on a Task and Finish Group looking at the health impacts of intensive poultry farming and will also present a report at full Council this Friday on changes to the Council's governance structure.

Bromyard specific.

The work to realign the end of Rowberry Street by the zebra crossing by the Post Office which had been scheduled to take place beginning in January has now been scheduled to begin 28th February. I copy the details so they are at hand:-

Phase 1: Junction Reconfiguration Works Works will be starting on Monday 28th February 2022 to (and including) Monday 7th March 2022. Rowberry Street will be closed and will function as a two-way road limited to local and business traffic only. The closure will be in place for 24 hours each day. Two-way traffic lights will be installed on Sherford Street and Church Street to reduce traffic to one lane.

Phase 2: Resurfacing, Line Painting, and Centre Island Construction. Works will be starting on Monday 7th March 2022 to (and including) Saturday 12th March 2022. Rowberry Street will be closed and will function as a two-way road limited to local and business traffic only. The closure will be in place between 9am and 5pm each day. Outside of working hours, the junction of Rowberry Street, Church Street and Sherford Street will remain open under 3-way traffic lights. Church Street will be closed between 9am and 5pm each day, from the junction of Broad Street through to Station Road Bridge.

The Hop Pole planning application has not yet been considered by the planning officer.

I attended the Hope centre for lunch with other pensioners and also attended a similar lunch at the Falcon Mews.

I met with planning officers and the cabinet member to discuss the pedestrian access improvements that had been planned for the Porthouse Rise development. This meeting followed my question at full council. Officers admit that because the plans included 3rd party land they are not enforceable. I have asked officers to engage with the landowner in question, and also to bring forward proposals to enhance the highways footpath to the best extent possible, in case opportunities for the combined cycle/pedestrian route continue to be thwarted. Officers commented that such pavement improvements might be augmented by an extension of the 30mph limit, which would be in line with residents, town council and my wishes.

Councillors will note with interest the provision of a 20mph zone through Pembridge (on the A44) which is being trialled with the intention of creating more such zones in built up areas in the county.

I attended the BWTC Traffic Management committee meeting and spoke to answer questions.

Nigel

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